

VZCZCXRO1753
PP RUEHDE RUEHDIR
DE RUEHKU #0461 0921218
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 021218Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8653
INFO RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0830
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1772
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1033
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1376
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHKU/OMC-K KUWAIT KU

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000461

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE, SIPDIS

STATE FOR AIAG, NEA/ARP, NEA/RA; CAIRO FOR LINDA LOGAN
AMMAN FOR WHITTLESEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AMED](#) [CASC](#) [KSCA](#) [SENV](#) [TBIO](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT AVIAN FLU UPDATE #6

Ref: Kuwait 332 and previous

1. (SBU) On March 31, Minister of Health Dr. Maasouma Al-Mubarak announced that Kuwait would cull 1.5 million birds (mainly chickens) in response to 40 new confirmed cases of H5N1 in poultry. On April 1, Kuwait confirmed five more cases, bringing the total number to 101, but there are still no confirmed human cases. Al-Mubarak said the 45 new cases, the first new cases in over a week, were discovered after Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) inspectors tested more than 11,000 birds at both commercial farms and household pens. Of the new cases, 20 were from four of Kuwait's 16 large commercial poultry farms in Wafra, near the Saudi border. Of the 1.5 million birds to be culled, 1.1 million are from these four farms. The birds to be culled represent 88% of Kuwait's total egg production. According to media reports, the GOK has pledged to pay compensation totaling USD 52 million to bird owners.

2. (SBU) Post has learned that Director of Animal Health at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), Dr. Farida Al-Mulla, has been removed from the position and is no longer involved in Kuwait's avian influenza response effort. Her replacement is Nabila Al-Ali, who was apparently shifted from another position within the PAAAFR. Post will meet with Al-Ali next week.

3. (SBU) Kuwait continues to ban the import of live birds and has ordered poultry shops in residential areas closed.

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